

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1 of the substitute specification, after the title "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CHARACTERIZING SPHEROIDS", insert the subheading

-- FIELD OF INVENTION --.

Page 1 of the substitute specification, between lines 7 and 8, insert the subheading

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --.

Page 1 of the substitute specification, between lines 21 and 22, insert the subheading

-- OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

Page 2 of the substitute specification, amend the paragraph at lines 3-6 to read as follows:

The object is solved using the device and the method according to ~~claim 1 respectively claim 7~~ the claims.

Advantageous embodiments of the method and the device are the subject matter of the subclaims.

Page 4 of the substitute specification, lines 3-17, amend the paragraph as follows:

In the invented method, impedance spectroscopy of spheroids is permitted, in particular, by the spheroid having mechanical contact over the entire circumference with the electrically insulating inner wall of the tube so that no current can flow past the spheroid over the culture medium or other paths when feeding in the current, which would lead to faulty measuring ~~resultss~~ results. Due to this arrangement, the current always flows through the spheroid. Thus, impedances and impedance spectra of spheroids can be measured with high sensitivity. In this manner, the rapid and nondestructive characterizing of these spheroids is possible. In particular, parameters for automatic test systems can also be gained from the impedance spectra so that testing the effect of drugs and genetic manipulations can be realized on spheroids with a high throughput.

Page 6 of the substitute specification, line 19 to page 7, line 2, of the substitute specification, amend the paragraph thereat as follows:

Preferably the tube has a conical-shaped enlargement on one or both sides of the ~~positing~~ positioning region permitting simple and rapid introduction of the spheroids into the positioning region without any damage. The electrodes are preferably disposed in the conical-shaped

enlarged region and extend radially into the tube. Due to this enlargement in this region, the electrodes do not hinder introduction of the spheroids.

Page 9 of the substitute specification, between lines 11 and 12, insert the subheading as follows:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --.

Page 10 of the substitute specification, before line 1, insert the subheading

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --.

Page 10 of the substitute specification, lines 13-19, amend the paragraph thereat as follows:

In the two fused-on small glass tubes 2, on both sides of the positioning positioning regions, a first borehole is provided at a distance of 15 mm from the center of this region and a second borehole at a distance of 20mm from the center of this region respectively. The boreholes have a diameter of 0.4mm. Four platinum wires 3,4 with a length of 10cm and a diameter of 0.3mm are glued into the boreholes.

Page 10 of the substitute specification, line 20 to page 11, line 2, of the substitute specification, amend the paragraph thereat as follows:

The platinum wires form the outer electrodes 4 respectively the inner electrodes 3 for receiving the impedance ~~spectrogram~~ spectrogram. The given distances of the electrodes from the entrance of the tube are, of course, only intended as an example and have no significant influence on the measurement. The electrodes may also be disposed in the tube in another manner, for example, as a coating.